

## HIGHER & FURTHER EDUCATION

### INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR WALES

#### (i) INTRODUCTION

The Higher and Further Education (HE & FE) sectors have a unique role in helping Wales compete on the international stage. This Action Plan defines shared aims and proposes some initial actions to help us achieve those aims in a coherent, co-ordinated and timely way – thereby promoting the Welsh Government's twin priorities of a buoyant economy and social justice. It also sets out some key returns on the funds invested in these areas which Wales can expect from early progress.

The Plan will complement the individual enterprise and very effective work being done already by separate universities and various HE & FE consortia. However, it is by working together that we (with the business community) can best respond to the wider immediate challenges of international competition, and add value to Wales' international offering. For an emerging nation, this Action Plan is a key component in all our efforts to place Wales more firmly on that wider stage.

The organisations joining together to support and help deliver this Action Plan are the Welsh Government, Higher Education Wales (HEW), the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and Colegau Cymru (CC). Its success depends upon effective collaboration between the stakeholders identified in Annex A, all of whom have a vital role to play.

#### (ii) CONTEXT

##### **International competitiveness – the challenge for Wales**

The successful countries and education providers of the future will be those that have a well developed international outlook and are internationally connected and competitive.

The Welsh Government's HE strategy, *For our Future (FoF)* highlights the importance of HE's international links; they provide a major opportunity for Wales to increase its presence on the world stage, attracting highly skilled people as well as bringing more private investment to Wales. As the OECD highlights<sup>1</sup>, universities act 'as essential bridges between players – business, governments and countries'. **This is the challenge for Wales: we have examples of success, but not enough.**

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<sup>1</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). 2010. *Innovation Strategy: Getting a head start on tomorrow*. See: <http://www.oecd.org/sti/45302349.pdf>

To broaden the reach of these international networks in Wales, our universities need to be better recognised and more effective globally as:

- major producers of innovation and excellence
- suppliers of innovative people, and as,
- attracters of and anchors for innovative activity.

Achievement of these will help to generate internationally connected supply chains.

*FoF* emphasises that in common with other countries, Wales faces fundamental challenges in HE which cannot be ignored. These include:

- increasing competition at an international level as universities worldwide chase enhanced levels of income and investment
- significant and increasing efforts by governments in many countries to sharpen the performance and competitiveness of their HE sectors.

Governments across the world are investing in HE as never before in order to further grow their economies,<sup>2</sup> and many are also creating 'regional' education hubs which attract students from countries that have traditionally come to the UK to study. Many of these courses are taught in the medium of English and we need to capitalise on the advantage this offers us in Wales, as well as be alert to the competition it poses.

The significance of the international dimension to the Welsh Government is reflected in the way in which it is embedded not only in *FoF*, but also in its economic development strategy, *Economic Renewal: a new direction (ERP)*, and *Science for Wales – a strategic agenda for science and innovation for Wales (SfW)*. *SfW* is itself aligned to the European Commission's *Europe 2020 Strategy* and *Innovation Union* policy – which places research and innovation (R&I) and the international dimension at the heart of economic growth. **International collaboration, and through it, the strengthening of R&I capacity and excellence, will be key to the long-term success of all these Welsh Government policies.**

This International Action Plan also closely aligns with and supports other Welsh Government priorities, such as those which seek stronger engagement with China (including its special regional link with Chongqing), India and the USA. However, it recognises that these countries are not the only priorities for engagement, with our universities also already having strong and productive links with, for example, Brazil, Russia, Columbia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey, South Africa, and beyond.

### **Internationalisation – the rewards to Wales**

This Action Plan promotes and supports internationalisation in its widest sense. There are many definitions of internationalisation, but in relation to HE & FE specifically 'the process of integrating an international dimension into the teaching, research and services functions of the institution' is helpful since it confirms how wide ranging it is.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> As highlighted by Ministers and HE leaders at the *Going Global* international conference in 2011, See: <http://ihe.britishcouncil.org/going-global/sessions/world-education-new-powerhouse>

<sup>3</sup> Fielden, J. 2008. *The Practice of Internationalisation: Managing International Activities in UK Universities*: UK HE International Unit Research Series/1

HE is a rapidly expanding global activity, which links education and economic partners in many ways and offers a considerable range of rewards not only for those who participate in it but also for those who benefit indirectly. Internationalisation therefore plays a dynamic role in developing the knowledge networks required to drive a buoyant economy, the delivery of social justice, and make Wales an attractive place to invest in.

The extent and impact of current levels of international activity undertaken by universities and colleges in Wales are already significant, but this Action Plan challenges us all to build further on those achievements so that Wales does not lag behind its competitors on the world stage.

We believe the benefits arising from this Action Plan are numerous; specific examples are given under each of the 5 priorities (see iii below). Each action generates multiple rewards to Wales contributing to more than one, and usually to several of the other overarching priorities (some of these are identified in Annex A).

### **(iii) PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES**

Our HE & FE sectors have an important role to play in helping Wales compete effectively on the world stage by:

#### **1. Making Wales a destination of choice**

This priority supports actions focussed on ensuring that Wales and its universities and colleges are attractive to students and staff worldwide, with the result that there is, on a sustainable basis, a continued increase in the number of these students and staff coming to Wales. It will be equally vital to maintain links with our international alumni after they have left Wales.

Such outcomes will produce gains for Wales in educational, cultural and economic terms. In total, Wales' international and EU students currently **contribute £237 million to Wales' GDP**. This is equivalent to 0.5% of the Welsh economy, and their presence here **supports 9,230 jobs** in Wales.<sup>4</sup> International and EU alumni from Wales's universities are traditionally much more likely to start a business (be it in Wales or elsewhere) than a UK student, contributing their entrepreneurial know-how even while they are studying in Wales. These students' continuing connections with their universities as alumni, and their positive experiences while studying here, also point to a considerable potential for drawing on these **international networks of former students** as they gravitate to senior management positions in companies and governments around the world.

University curricula in Wales are becoming increasingly international in focus and the benefits to students from Wales and other parts of the UK of the experiences of EU and international students are significant. Amongst other things, it helps them to develop an understanding of **cultural diversity, global influences and entrepreneurialism**. Wales is one of the few nations in the world to have an *Education in Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Strategy (ESDGC)*,

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<sup>4</sup> Oxford Economics. 2011. *The Impact of International & EU Students in Wales. A report for the Wales International Consortium, Higher Education Wales, and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales*

which also enables our students to develop the 'global mind set' sought by employers. We have put in place some building blocks of a better international structure for Wales but they are presently little more than foundations.

Providing **international placements for home students** is a key area of work for universities in Wales. This process is assisted by several mobility programmes (such as Erasmus and Study Abroad), the Bologna Process, and an emerging 'national' (UK) strategy for outward student mobility. This experience helps our graduates to further develop the skills they require to succeed in the global workplace<sup>5</sup> and is much valued by employers. We need to ensure that such opportunities in Wales remain competitive with offerings from across the UK.

The input of leading academic staff from around the world helps enrich our scholarship and research base in Wales. However, more highly talented staff are needed (currently 17% in Wales come from outside the UK, compared to 25% in the UK as a whole), and progress in this priority will support the Welsh Government's ambition to **attract and retain research 'stars' and the best graduate students of all nationalities**, and better promote what Wales has to offer (as set out in SfW).

The contribution of our universities to this priority to date is already significant, but competitive pressures and changes to UK immigration policy, mean that the demands being placed on this area are greater now than ever before.

Returns to Wales under this priority will include:

- **International networks** of former students in senior management positions in companies and governments around the world
- **Enhanced skills and employability** for home students
- **Enriched international and inter-cultural experiences** for home students, staff and wider communities in Wales
- **Leading academic staff and the best post graduate students** attracted to Wales from around the world
- **Significant economic contribution to Wales's GDP and jobs**

## **2. Promoting international partnerships that are mutually beneficial**

The aim of this priority is to facilitate and encourage a variety of partnerships which offer long-term and sustainable benefits to our universities and colleges (including through and to students, graduates and staff) as well as to our international partners, and to Wales as a whole. Universities in Wales have a number of international networks of education and research. They also have commercial partnerships of some substance, as well as significant practical experience of working with overseas governments and businesses. However, the increasingly competitive conditions in which they operate will require that universities and the Welsh Government (including their staff based overseas) work ever more closely together, so that we

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<sup>5</sup> A 2010 survey by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) points out 'over two thirds of employers (71%) are not satisfied with the foreign language skills of young people and over half (55%) perceive shortfalls in their international cultural awareness'. Coleman, J. March 2011. *Study/ work abroad and employability*.

continue to develop and maintain a wide range of productive and sustainable international partnerships.

This is a *cross-cutting priority* which is relevant to the other 4 priorities in the Action Plan and provides a number of interconnected benefits to Wales.

Returns to Wales under this priority will include:

- Partnerships between Wales's universities and their counterparts overseas, including, **education providers for Trans National Education (TNE)**, supported by for example, the UK HE International Unit's HE Global initiative
- **R&I partnerships and commercial collaborations** with international HEIs and businesses
- **Better access to external sources of funding**, including European Union (EU) funds such as those to be made available under Horizon 2020 through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships within and beyond Wales
- New or expanded initiatives aimed at **increasing student, graduate and staff placements and employability**, such as through the Erasmus, Study Abroad and GO Wales programmes
- **International development and humanitarian partnerships and collaborations which help to enhance the contribution by Wales as well as cementing our good reputation in these fields.**

### **3. Building internationally excellent research capacity in selected areas**

The focus of this objective is on increasing our research and knowledge exchange partnerships with the best universities and research institutions worldwide. *SfW* emphasises that 'Wales has to look outwards. Our ambition has to be **to work with and compete with the best in the world**'. It emphasises the central role of **international excellence in science in creating economic growth, higher added value employment and in attracting people, investments and facilities to Wales**. Research excellence is also a key priority in *FOF* and in HEFCW's Corporate Strategy, and is a major component in our national ambitions.

*SfW* identifies three priority research themes where our scientific research is already strong internationally and can potentially play a catalytic role in **supporting the development of some of the key economic priority sectors in Wales**. They are: Life sciences and health; Low carbon, energy and environment; and Advanced Engineering and materials. *FoF* has an additional strand – digital economy - where Wales has expertise and potential. While these provide a collective focus for international engagement under this Action Plan, it does not diminish the contribution of our universities' research excellence to many other subject areas which may, in time, offer equally significant opportunities for educational and economic advances.

*SfW* observes that many sources of competitive funding lie beyond our borders, and the Welsh Government is clear that we need to step up our performance in this regard. Gaining access to these funds will be a priority for Wales's universities, particularly given the scale of resources being allocated to the EU's Framework 7 (FP7) - and in the future via Horizon 2020 (H2020), and other EU programmes. EU

policy and the Welsh Government's responses to it<sup>6</sup> identify the need to use structural funds only in a transformational way, including **leveraging in other competitively awarded funds**, especially through a closer alignment with H2020. Important sources here also include the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI), the Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF), the Gates Foundation and the United States Government's National Institutes of Health, which all make funding available in the UK.

Returns to Wales under this priority will include:

- **Greater international research excellence in selected areas**, creating economic growth, higher added value employment, attracting people, investments and facilities to Wales
- Further **development of the key economic priority sectors** in Wales
- Enhanced capacity to **work with and compete with the best in the world**
- Increased ability to **leverage in competitively awarded R&I funds** to Wales.

#### **4. Developing closer links between universities and businesses operating overseas**

This priority promotes opportunities between businesses operating in the UK and Wales who wish to develop further their international links, in partnership with Welsh universities, as well as with those already working globally. In addition to developing new links, it will be important to expand established relationships, such as with those between Wales and Chongqing.

Building on an excellent science base, a commitment to innovation and the better commercialisation of research and development (R&D) outcomes are key priorities in Welsh Government economic policy. *Economic Renewal: a new direction* states: 'we will develop new, sophisticated propositions for the key sectors based around skills, R&D, clustering and genuine added value with our universities'.

*SfW* highlights the need to encourage long term sustainable investment in Wales by business and commerce, and to strengthen the economy through R&D, design and innovation. It also emphasises the need to improve further the application of innovation to industry and the exploitation of opportunities that would afford this, such as the EU's structural funding and H2020 programmes. There is a priority in EU policy to internationalise SMEs; universities in Wales have a key role to play in this.

*Economic Renewal: a new direction* also emphasises the need to deepen relationships with anchor companies (i.e. high growth firms, and major companies with extensive supply chains in Wales), including, where appropriate, those outside the Welsh Government's nine key economic priority sectors.<sup>7</sup> There is an emphasis in EU policy on the 'smart-specialisation' of R&I, and a focus on key enabling

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<sup>6</sup> National Assembly for Wales, Enterprise and Business Committee, February 2012. *Draft legislative proposals for EU structural funds 2014-2*, and, National Assembly for Wales, Enterprise and Business Committee, July 2012. *Horizon 2020: Stage 1 Report*

<sup>7</sup> These are: Creative industries, Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Energy and Environment, Advanced materials and manufacturing, Life Sciences, Financial and Professional services, Food & Farming, Construction, and Tourism

technologies (KETs), and Welsh HE & FE needs to be on the frontline of the current development of a new Innovation Strategy for Wales (*Innovation Wales*), which is presently out to consultation.

Returns to Wales from this priority will include:

- Wales becomes a **partner of choice for international business and inward investment**
- Wales's **international profile for innovation and knowledge exchange partnerships** is raised
- More **internationally focussed R&I and commercial partnerships** that help to drive a high-value, knowledge-based economy in Wales
- Enhanced **internship and placement opportunities** for students, graduates, and staff from Wales with companies abroad.

### **5. Improving Wales's contribution to international development**

Wales and its universities and colleges have a well established track record in supporting international development and providing humanitarian assistance, notably through the Welsh Government's Wales for Africa programme, its *Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Strategy (ESDGC)*, the Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance (ELRHA) initiative, and through a range of innovative courses and research activities conducted by its universities.

This priority will support work in relation to international development and humanitarian assistance as it may, for instance, concern:

- The Millennium Development Goals and Wales's longstanding links with Africa. *Wales for Africa: The Wales International Sustainable Development Framework* highlights where the Welsh Government can help deliver the United Nations' (UN's) Millennium Development Goals to halve global poverty by 2015. Our universities and colleges can play a role in the delivery of this objective.
- More internship opportunities in humanitarian assistance for Wales's post-graduates to raise the potential for their successful employment in this highly competitive field.
- Humanitarian partnerships and collaborations aimed at enhancing the role of innovation in improving operational humanitarian performance. These might, for example, be in climate change adaptation, carbon reduction, and water resource and security measures, all areas where Welsh universities already have some considerable strengths.

Returns to Wales under this priority will include:

- Greater potential to **scale up Wales's contribution to international development**
- Enhanced profile **for Welsh competence and excellence** in this area
- **Repository of related HE activity and country involvement** available to Welsh Government and other international development stakeholders.

#### **(iv) IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

The success of this Action Plan will depend upon effective collaboration and engagement between a number of partners who will agree measurable targets and timescales for individual actions. A list of initial actions to deliver the five priorities (see section iii – above) are presented in the attached Annex.

These actions will be regularly reviewed, and they may be amended and added to as appropriate. To help implement this Action Plan a multi-agency co-ordinating group has been formed (the Wales European & International FE & HE Group - WEIFHEG). The group will offer advice on all these and associated matters, including funding, to the Welsh Government (which itself is represented on the group). It is intended that the Action Plan will be endorsed by the Welsh Government's new For our Future Board, which will monitor its overall progress.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE ACTION PLAN (Annex A below)

AoC	Association of Colleges
CSAW	CSAW – Chief Scientific Advisor’s Office (Welsh Government)
DBETS	Department of Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (Welsh Government)
DBIS	Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (UK Government)
DfES	Department for Education and Skills (Welsh Government)
Ectarc	European centre for training and regional co-operation
EEAD	European and External Affairs Department (Welsh Government)
ELRHA	Enhancing Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance
ERP	<i>Economic Renewal: a new direction</i>
ESF	European Social Fund
ERA	European Research Area
FECs	Further Education Colleges
FoF	<i>For Our Future: the 21<sup>st</sup> Century HE Strategy and Plan for Wales</i>
GO Wales	Graduate Opportunities Wales
HEFCW	Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
HEW	Higher Education Wales
HIF	Humanitarian Innovation Fund (delivered through ELRHA, above)
I&E	Innovation and Engagement
IU	UK HE International Unit
NUSW	National Union of Students Wales
PfG	<i>Programme for Government</i> (Welsh Government)
PVC	Pro-vice chancellor
SfW	<i>Science for Wales: a strategic agenda for science and innovation in Wales</i>
UKVET	UK Vocational Education and Training initiative
WEFO	Welsh European Funding Office (Welsh Government)
WfA	Wales for Africa (Welsh Government)
WHEB	Welsh Higher Education Brussels
WHEELO	Welsh Higher Education European Liaison Officers
WHEIs	Higher Education Institutions (in Wales)
WG	Welsh Government
WILO	Welsh (HE) Industrial Liaison Officers

## ANNEX A – ACTION PLAN

### Priority 1: MAKING WALES A DESTINATION OF CHOICE

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<b>1.1</b> Develop UKBA contacts & monitor <b>immigration issues</b> & impacts to Wales	HEW/ DfES	Colegau Cymru/ NUSW/ HEFCW/ BC	Staff resource	Ongoing	To support the HE internationalisation agenda, increasing the number of overseas students & building external links - <i>HEFCW 2012/13 Remit letter</i>	Ongoing
<b>1.2</b> Improve employability prospects for Welsh graduates by addressing <b>outward mobility opportunities</b>	DfES	HEFCW/ NUSW/ Colegau Cymru	Staff resource & significant financial resource (£1mil+)	Respond to <i>UK HE Student Mobility Joint Working Group report</i> , & England's proposals to support Outward Student Mobility from 2014/15	<i>Skills &amp; Employability Framework for Wales</i>  <i>Key Information Sets</i>	Discussions ongoing
<b>1.3 Overseas Student Scholarship Programme</b> to attract students to Wales in	HEW ESF Steering Group	HEIs/ WEFO/ CSAW/ EEAD/ DfES (Coms)/	Depends on numbers. Might come from	3 international PG students in place by AY 2013/14, & 3	To increase the science & engineering talent,	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
priority areas ( <i>needs to be linked to 'National Friends of Wales' scheme - below</i> )		DBETS/ BC  IU	international collaboration element of current & future Structural Funds Programme Promotion campaign required	more by AY 2014/15  Maximise advantage from scholarship programmes e.g. <i>Science without Borders</i>	capitalising on & adding value to <i>SfW</i> objectives to provide PG studentships in each of the 3 priority areas (open to all nationalities)	Ongoing
<b>1.4 Co-ordinate Press &amp; PR mechanism</b> for International HE in Wales, setting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed key messages to build reputation of sector</li> <li>• Repository of good news stories</li> <li>• Controlled link with social networks</li> </ul>	HEW Coms Group/ DfES	EEAD/ IU/ BC/ Colegau Cymru	Staff resource, website support, IT elements	Agree & promote initial key messages by Dec 2012	Better promoting what Wales has to offer – <i>ERP</i>	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<b>1.5</b> Create a virtual ' <b>National Friends of Wales</b> ' to which all international alumni would be encouraged to self register. To promote ongoing links with Wales – incl. with HE and business	EEAD	HEW/ HEIs/ Colegau Cymru /FECs	Significant staff & financial resource in database, content & management of programme – possibly from EEAD	HEW to make available provisional contacts list to EEAD. Initial set up by Jan 2012	Better promoting what Wales has to offer – <i>ERP</i>	
<b>1.6</b> Host <b>EuroScience Open Forum</b> 2016 in Wales ( <i>also relevant to Priorities 2, 3 &amp; 4</i> )	Office of CSAW	HEW/ HEW PVC Research/ DBETS/ WG Sector Panels/ DfES (Coms)/ WG (Transport networks)	Considerable in terms of human & financial resource. Staff time (including at high level) to develop & promote bid. If successful, national Project Team responsible for raising substantial part of c.4 M€ budget, Significant publicity & promotion	Bid required by Jan 2013.  Bid to host EuroScience Open Forum 2016 in Wales to:  Present cutting-edge S&T developments in all scientific areas Stimulate engagement with S&T Foster a dialogue on S&T, society &	To actively seek to attract 'stars' to broaden or strengthen the grand challenge priorities - <i>SfW</i>  Better promoting what Wales has to offer – <i>ERP</i>  Foster a culture of exploitation, discovery & intellectual challenge that generates international	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
			requirements.	policy Provide a valuable resource, including careers advice, for young scientists	recognition, respect & engagement – <i>FoF</i>	

**Priority 2: PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS THAT ARE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL**

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<b>2.1</b> Produce a 'live' <b>contacts list</b> of Welsh HE sector & WG overseas staff, their roles, & international activities. To enable & facilitate links between WHEI's and international partners. To enable WG to build upon WHEIs' international strengths and resources	EEAD/ DBETS/ HEW	IU/ HE Global	Staff resource (EEAD)	HE sector already submitted list to DBETS to help direct work with potential overseas partners  Welsh Government to produce their list by Dec 2012	<i>EPR, FoF, SfW</i>  Building links & bringing external income into Wales principally through a partnership approach to international engagement – <i>HEFCW Remit letter</i>	HE sector list delivered  Welsh Government list in progress
<b>2.2</b> Support overseas partnerships in <b>research &amp; industrial collaborations</b> in USA, India, China ( <i>also applies to priority area 1 &amp; 4</i> )	HEW PVC Research Group	EEAD/ WG Sector Panels/ HEFCW	Staff resource, Travel costs	Stage 1: identify key priorities to pursue by January 2013	<i>ERP, SfW</i>	
<b>2.3</b> Commitment to <b>key UK (&amp; European) level Boards &amp; initiatives</b> focussing on International / science & innovation policy	DfES/ Office of CASW/ EEAD	HEW/ DBETS/ WEFO/ HEIs/ HEFCW/ WHEB/ WHEELLO	Staff resource, Travel costs	Protect & promote Wales in UK HE international activity, informing policy and competitive position	To recognise the importance of London/ Brussels as key locations where opinions are formed. To develop a more	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
				for Wales. Stage 1: Welsh Government attendance at <i>UK HE International Strategic Advisory Board</i> meetings	coherent approach to international engagement - <i>ERP</i>  Leadership for Science – ‘we look to academics in Wales to shape research calls’ - <i>SfW</i>	
<b>2.4</b> Monitor development of UKVET international initiative being led by DBIS/ AoC so that Welsh FECs/HEIs can engage fully with the opportunities arising from it	Colegau Cymru/ DfES	DBIS/ AoC/ FECs/ HEW/ HEIs/ EEAD	tbc			Ongoing

**Priority 3: BUILDING INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT RESEARCH IN SELECTED AREAS**

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<p><b>3.1 Review of Wales European Collaboration Fund</b> (a DBETS EU funding promotional fund) to achieve greater participation and take up</p>	<p>Office of CASW</p>	<p>DBETS/ HEW ESF Steering Group/ WEFO WHEB/ WHEELLO</p>	<p>Staff resource, subventions could be within budget, although needs to be bolstered via ESF international collaboration funding</p>	<p>Jan 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance flexibility of fund to cover academic time, travel, and seminars</li> <li>• Run workshop on application process, with a view to simplification</li> <li>• Provide baseline subvention for WHEB's European Co-ordinators Groups &amp; their work</li> </ul>	<p><i>ERP, PfG, FoF, SfW</i></p>	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<b>3.2</b> Develop formal links & regular feedback routes from Welsh Government <b>Sector Panels &amp; Anchor Companies</b> relevant to international research partnerships	DBETS	HEW PVC Research Group/ DBETS/ WHEB	Staff resource		<i>ERP, PfG, FoF</i>	
<b>3.3</b> Develop research collaborations & <b>win more resource for international activity</b> . Monitor work (by HE & business) to maximise advantage from FP7/Horizon 2020 (H2020) & the ERA in Welsh Government priority sectors & in promoting synergies with structural funding	WHEB/ WHEELO	HEW/ HEFCW/ Office of CSAW/ DBETS & WG Sector Panels/ WEFO/ WHEELO	Existing staff resource (HEFCW & HEIs have agreed funding in principle for WHEB to 2014/15. Specific sector group work needs to be bolstered by e.g. Wales European Collaboration Fund (above), & links to CASW National Research Networks)	Stage 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress report by WHEB on its European Coordinating Group work by Jan 2013</li> <li>Progress report by WHEELO chair on WEFO Operational Programme developments relating to synergies by Jan 2013</li> </ul>	To 'get the most from EU structural funding'. To 'facilitate greater synergy between EU structural funds & research programmes in Welsh HEIs & industry, & improve technical & peer review of WEFO-funded research proposals'. To facilitate capacity building & direct interventions that increase industrial & R&D competitiveness	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
					<p>of Wales'. 'So many sources of funding lie beyond our borders' - <i>SfW</i></p> <p>To maximise Wales' share of external research funding including FP, H2020 &amp; other EU programmes – <i>ERP</i></p>	

**Priority 4: DEVELOPING CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND BUSINESSES OPERATING OVERSEAS**

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<p><b>4.1</b> Develop <b>Anchor Companies</b> policy by linking with DBETS Innovation team leading work</p>	DBETS	HEW PVC Research Group/ WILO/ Colegau Cymru	Staff resource		To deepen relationships with anchor companies - <i>ERP</i>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Ensure full value of HE &amp; FE is recognised in <b>overseas Missions</b> by First Minister &amp; DBETS Minister</p>	EEAD	DBETS/ HEW/ HEIs/ Colegau Cymru/ FECs	Staff resource, travel costs	<p>HE fully involved in trade missions in 2012</p> <p>DBETS to publish trade mission programme beyond 2012 with tailored missions involving HE&amp;FE</p>	International competitiveness of HE – <i>FoF &amp; HEFCW Remit letter</i>	DBETS has published trade mission programme end to 2012
<p><b>4.3</b> Encourage <b>student, graduate &amp; staff placement opportunities</b>, through companies &amp; alumni based overseas (in 3 parts)</p>	WEFO	HEW ESF Steering Group/ HEIs/ DBETS/ DfES	Could be resourced through an extension of an existing Structural Funding programme, e.g.	Programme in place by start AY 2014/15	<i>Skills &amp; Employability Framework for Wales</i>	

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
	GO Wales	Ectarc	Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships  Being resourced through GO Wales by HEFCW (under EU Leonardo programme)	c.117 European placements for graduates from Wales		Being delivered
	University of Glamorgan (for sector)	HEIs/ HEFCW	Being resourced by HEIs through HEFCW's I&E funding	Strategic Insight Programme: 44 (out of the total 220 placements for HE staff) to be with businesses abroad		Ongoing
<b>4.4 Enhance Welsh HE &amp; FE innovation activity in the international arena</b>	WILO	WHEELOs/ WHEB/ HEFCW/ Colegau Cymru	HEFCW I&E fund already supports Chongqing HE Training Consortium	Develop & support initiatives	Innovation & industry – to improve the exploitation of UK & EU opportunities including from EU's H2020 – <i>SfW</i>	Ongoing

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
	University of Glamorgan (for sector)	WILO/ HEIs/ HEFCW/ EEAD	Being resourced by HEIs through HEFCW's I&E funding	Set up and deliver Chongqing HE Training Consortium (July 2014)	<p>To encourage long term sustainable investment in Wales by Business &amp; commerce, to strengthen the economy through R&amp;D, design &amp; innovation - <i>SfW</i></p> <p>To capitalise on &amp; add value to existing WG &amp; HE links e.g. Chongqing &amp; Indian Government's Dept for S&amp;T</p> <p>Forthcoming: <i>Innovation Wales</i></p> <p><i>HEFCW Corporate Strategy</i></p>	Ongoing (staff appointed)

**Priority 5: IMPROVING WALES'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<p><b>5.1</b> Sustain Welsh HE sector's support for <b>Enhancing Learning &amp; Research for Humanitarian Assistance</b> (ELRHA) &amp; participation in the <b>Humanitarian Innovation Fund (HIF)</b></p>	HEW	HEIs/ HEFCW	Staff resource, travel costs (being covered by University of Glamorgan)	<p>Wales's HE sector representation on ELRHA Steering Group</p> <p>Successful bids to HIF by Welsh HEIs</p>	<i>FoF</i>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Swansea University (CMPR) received HIF small grant (up to £20k) – <i>Innovation through refugee children's participation in (Uganda)</i></p>
<p><b>5.2</b> Humanitarian pilot internship scheme for Wales</p>	ELRHA/ WfA	HEIs	£8k committed by WfA	Training for 2 graduates from Wales, followed by placements	<i>Skills &amp; Employability Framework for Wales</i>	Being delivered

Action	Responsible for Action	Other Partners	Resource & Risk	Targets & Timescale	Policy framework	Benefits & Progress
<b>5.3</b> Improve HE links with <b>Wales for Africa (WfA)</b> scheme	WfA Links Network	HEIs	Staff resource & volunteers	Scheme programme – to be scoped	<i>Wales for Africa: The Wales International Sustainable Development Framework</i>	
<b>5.4</b> Improve Wales's <b>contribution to international development</b>	HEW	HEIs/ Colegau Cymru/ FECs	Staff resource	Repository of related HE activity & country involvement available to Welsh Government & other international development stakeholders	<i>Wales for Africa: The Wales International Sustainable Development, &amp;, Framework Education in Sustainable Development &amp; Global Citizenship Strategy (ESDGC)</i>	